

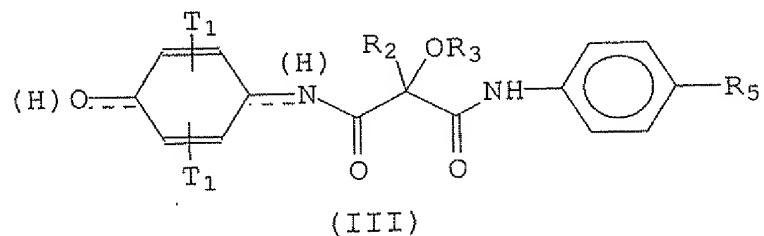
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

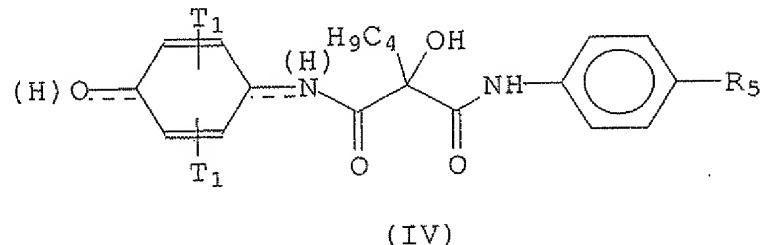
1-2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) ~~A compound as claimed in claim 1~~ An optionally substituted compound of formula III:



wherein each T₁ is independently, absent, hydrogen or an S-R₆ group, where any/each R₆ is independently an organic group of molecular weight up to around 500 amu, R₂ is an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkaryl, aralkyl, arylsulphonylalkyl or aralkenyl group, and R₃ is hydrogen or a C₂-C₇, acyl, or alkaryl group are as described in claim 1 and R₅ is hydrogen or an alkyl, alkenyl group, OH, O-alkyl, O-acyl, SH, S-alkyl, S-acyl, halo, or amino group. Preferred R₅ groups are hydrogen, OH and O-acyl.

4. (currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim [[1]] 3 of formula IV, or a salt thereof;



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wherein R_5 is hydrogen or OH and each T_1 is, independently, H or a glutathione moiety attached via the sulphur atom thereof.

5. (currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim [[1]] 3 wherein both T_1 groups are independently thiols, attached by the sulphur atom thereof.

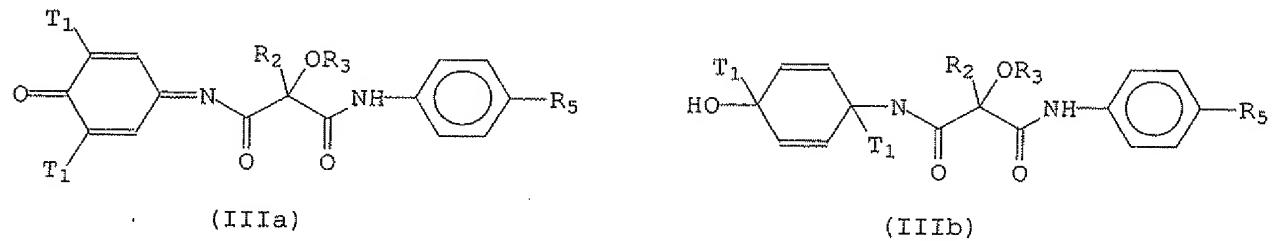
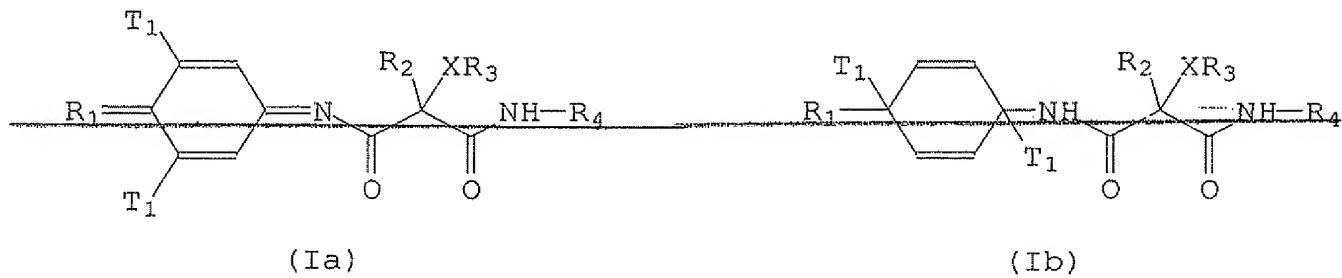
6. (previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 5 wherein both of said thiols are independently glutathione or cysteine.

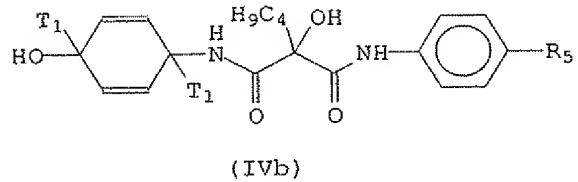
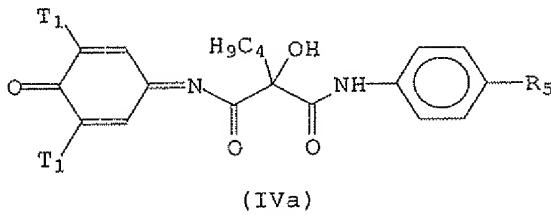
7. (currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim [[1]] 3 wherein both T₁ groups are hydrogen.

8. (currently amended) A compound of claim [[1]] 3 wherein the two T_1 groups are independently ortho or meta to group R_1 .

9. (currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim [[1]] 3 wherein one T_1 group is ipso to group R_1 and one T_1 group is para to group R_1 .

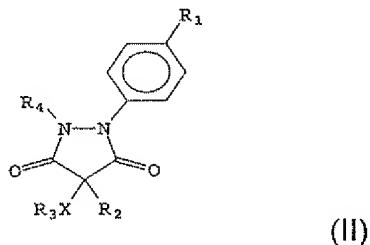
10. (currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim [[1]] 3 having a formula ~~Ia, Ib, IIIa, IIIb, IVa and/or IVb~~





wherein R₁-R₅, T₁ and X are as defined in claim [[1]] 3.

11. (currently amended) A method for the synthesis of a compound as defined in claim [[1]] 3 by ring-opening of a starting material of formula II



wherein T₁, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ and X are as defined in claim [[1]] 3, or protected derivatives or precursors thereof.

12. (previously presented) A method of claim 11 wherein the two T₁ groups are independently ortho or beta to group R₁.

13. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein a compound of formula II having hydrogens at both T₁ positions is subjected to ring-opening followed by reaction with a thiol to provide a compound as claimed in claim [[1]] 3 wherein at least one T₁ group is a thiol.

14-18. (cancelled)

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19. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim [[1]] 3 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, carrier or diluent.

20. (cancelled)